(c) the details of the recommendations made in the report for the development of such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRJ ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The All India Report on the provisional results of the 5th Economic Census released in June, 2006 has neither categorised any State/Union Territory as industrially backward nor made any recommendation for the development of industrially backward States. The Report only provides State-wise data on the number and growth of enterprises and persons employed, selected characteristics of the enterprises, the percentage of agricultural and non-agricultural enterprises in the total enterprises, percentage of hired workers and adult female workers in the total workforce and the average annual growth in enterprises and employment in 2005, as compared to 1998.

Increase in cement price

1085. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cement price in our country is increasing day by day and cement industry are taking advantages of the demand supply mismatch;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto for curtailing the prices of cement products while curbing industry's earning of excessive profits in the country; and

(c) whether Government is considering to import cement products in the country, if so, the details of cement products and rates in other parts of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) As per Cement Manufacturers' Association, the average price of cement has increased from Rs. 158 per bag in December, 2005 to 229 per bag in July, 2007. The details of month-wise prices are given in the Statement. Refer to the Statement Appended to the Answer to usq 1064 Part (a). Spurt in the prices of cement is indicative of a mismatch between demand and supply.

(b) and (c) Import duty on cement has been reduced from 12.5% to Nil. Countervailing duty and special additional customs duty on cement have also been removed. Further, MMTC Ltd., a Public Sector Enterprise, has been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable early availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market which in turn is expected to have a salutory effect on prices.